CLAIMS

- 1. An apparatus for detecting the presence or position of an ophthalmic product in a container, comprising:
- source of electromagnetic energy located relative to the container to direct a) electromagnetic energy at the container;
- a detector disposed relative to the container and the source to detect **b**) electromagnetic energy from the source which passes through or is reflected by the product and the container; and
- means for indicating the presence or position of the product in the container c) responsive to fluorescence, absorption or reflection of the electromagnetic energy by the product.
- 2. An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the product is a contact lens.
- An apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein the source emits electromagnetic energy 3. having a wavelength in the ultraviolet range.
- An apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein the source emits electromagnetic energy 20 4 having a wavelength in the infrared range.
 - An apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein the contact lens contains an ultraviolet 5. absorbing media which absorbs electromagnetic energy in the ultraviolet range.
 - 6. An apparatus as defined in claim 5, wherein said absorbing media is an ultraviolet blocker.
- An apparatus as defined in claim 5, wherein said absorbing media is an ultraviolet 7. photoinitiator. 30
 - 8. An apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein the source emits electromagnetic energy in the visible range and said contact lens contains a tint.

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- An apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein the lens includes a media which absorbs or 10. reflects electromagnetic energy of a wavelength in a specified range, and the container includes a receptacle for the lens and is constructed from a material which absorbs or reflects the electromagnetic energy differently than the lens.

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An apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein said lens includes a media which absorbs 11. or reflects electromagnetic energy having a wavelength in a specified range and said detector is sensitive to electromagnetic radiation in the specified range.

12. An apparatus as defined in claim 2, further comprising a plurality of sources and a plurality of detectors disposed relative to each other for detecting the presence or position of a contact lens in a container

13. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said detector is a calorimeter.

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14. The apparatus as recited in claim 13, further comprising a filter.

15. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said detector is a spectrometer.

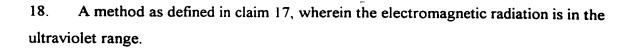
The apparatus recited in claim 15, further comprising a filter. 16.

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A method for detecting the presence or position of an ophthalmic product in a 17. container, the product including a media which fluoresces, absorbs or reflects electromagnetic energy of a frequency in a specified range, the method comprising:

directing electromagnetic energy of a frequency in the specified range at the product and the container;

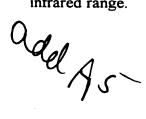
- detecting the electromagnetic energy which passes through or is reflected by the product and the container; and
- processing the detected electromagnetic energy to determine the presence or position of the product in the container.



- 5 19. A method as defined in claim 17, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is in the infrared range.
 - A method for detecting the presence or position of an ophthalmic product in a container, the product including a media which fluoresces, absorbs or reflects the electromagnetic energy of a frequency in a specified range, the method comprising:

(a) directing electromagnetic energy at the product and the container;

- (b) detecting the absence of or reduction in electromagnetic energy of a frequency in a specified range which passes through or is reflected by the product and the container; and
- (c) processing the detected electromagnetic energy to determine the presence or position of the product in the container.
- 21. A method as defined in claim 20, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is in the ultraviolet range.
- 20 22. A method as defined in claim 20, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is in the infrared range.



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